

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the present title with the following amended title:

**MOVING PICTURE ENCODING METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PERFORMING
A MULTI-FRAME MOTION PREDICTION WITH REFERENCE TO A PLURALITY OF
PICTURE FRAMES**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3 and ending on page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

Now, generally, in a digital broadcast system or a picture communication service, the moving picture signal is controlled about the occurring code amount, i.e., the bit rate thereof for transmission/storage. Then, code amount control unit 111 detects the occurring code amount supplied from variable length encoding unit 103 and performs the two processes, as ~~deseried~~ described later, to control the occurring code amount.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

In the first process, code amount control unit 111 sets a target code amount for each frame in accordance with each picture type. When R is a code amount assigned to a frame that ~~have-has~~ not been encoded in GOP, Np and Nb are numbers of P-pictures and B-pictures, which have not been encoded in GOP, respectively, Xi, Xp, Xb are parameters, each of which represents frame complexity of each picture, defined by equations (1) to (3), and Kp and Kb are parameters in consideration of subjective picture qualities by picture type, target code amounts Ti, Tp, Tb by picture types are then given by equations (4) to (6).